MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether any officer made any local investigation to find out whether the bridge was necessary or not?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That will have to be ascertained from the Chief Engineer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): My interpellation was whether the restoration of a ruined bridge was necessary, and the answer given is that it is not necessary. I want information as to the basis on which the answer has been given. If the member in charge is not able to give such information there is absolutely no use in asking interpellations and in the Government answering them.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Chief Secretary has told you, Mr. Nilakanta Pillai, that the answer is based on the report of the Chief Engineer. Government can call for reports only from Heads of Departments, and in this case they called for a report from the Chief Engineer; and the information has been placed before the House. Your further question is whether the Chief Engineer sent up the report in consultation with the local officers or not. Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar says he wants notice of this question. At present he is not in a position to answer it. It seems to me to be perfectly fair.

Trivandrum Municipal Council.

11. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that (i) a resolution dated the 26th Chingam 1103, *re* the appointment of a Municipal President, etc., was forwarded to the President, Municipal Council, Trivandrum, signed by 12 members, of whom 11 are elected, and (ii) the President refused to board the resolution on the agenda;

(*b*) the total number of members in the Trivandrum Municipal Council and the number of elected members among them; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, whether they will call for the information and lay it on the table?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) No. But a resolution on the subject dated the 26th Tulam 1103, signed by 12 members was received by the President.

(ii) The resolution was not included in the agenda by the President as he considered that it was not in order.

(*b*) There are 23 Councillors in the Trivandrum Municipal Council of whom 16 are elected.

(*c*) In the light of the answers to parts (*a*) and (*b*) this does not arise.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to part (2) (*a*) may I know whether any discussion took place on the resolution forwarded to the President of the Municipal Council?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : The question is whether the Government will be pleased to state whether they are aware that a resolution dated the 26th Chingom 1103, *re* the appointment of a Municipal President, was forwarded to the President, Municipal Council, and the President refused to board the resolution on the agenda. That has been answered. If the member wishes to know whether any discussion on that motion took place before the Council, that is a matter of detail in regard to which information is not now available.

Foreigners in the Lunatic Asylum.

12. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of foreigners in the Lunatic Asylum, Trivandrum; and

(*b*) the cost at which they are maintained there ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) (*a*) 10.

(*b*) Rs. 15 per head per mensem.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : With reference to foreign lunatics in the asylum, did the Government at any time think of doing away with this unnecessary expenditure by not keeping them in our asylum, *i. e.*, by sending them to their respective localities under proper arrangements ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : That is under consideration.

Shortage of Medicines in the mofussil Hospitals and Dispensaries.

13. **MR. V. S. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware that there has been a shortage of medicines in the mofussil hospitals and dispensaries during several months every year and that this is due to the late distribution of medicines every year from the Medical Stores ; and

(*b*) whether they have enquired into the cause of this late distribution ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this question does not arise.

Appointment of a Superintendent for the English and Vernacular Records.

14. **MR. V. S. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla*) : Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing a permanent Superintendent to be in charge of the records—English as well as Vernacular—in the Secretariat ?

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